



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JAMES E. RISCH
Governor
PATRICK A. TAKASUGI
Director / Secretary

TO: Idaho County Commissioners

FROM: Michael E. Cooper, Chief
Bureau of Feeds & Plant Services

DATE: March 31, 2006

SUBJECT: 2006 ISDA Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket Program

Introduction

Grasshoppers and Mormon crickets continue to be one of the most serious pest problems in Idaho rangelands and adjacent croplands. Based on the 2004 and 2005 surveys, Idaho has the potential to experience outbreaks in 2006 similar to those in 2005. The management and the timely control of grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations are very high priorities for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and our cooperators at USDA, APHIS.

Background

Sixty-four percent of Idaho lands are administered by the Federal Government and 43% percent of the state (21.8 million acres) is classified as rangelands. BLM administers 11.8 million acres in Idaho, much of it prime grasshopper/Mormon cricket habitat. There is a significant interface of grasshopper and Mormon cricket habitat in public trust that borders private rangeland and irrigated cropland in the state.

Mormon crickets and grasshoppers (primarily about six species) are cyclical economic pest problems particularly in southern Idaho. In 2005, a significant outbreak of grasshoppers occurred in Idaho, Lewis and Nez Perce Counties of North central Idaho.

In 2005, USDA, APHIS, treated 70,914 acres of federal land to control grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks. ISDA cost share treatments covered 5,681 acres. In addition, ISDA distributed 192,438 pounds of 5% carbaryl bait to 538 private landowners in 20 counties. The bait distribution by ISDA amounted to over a \$ 110,000 investment to help our farmers and ranchers fight this insect plague.

2006 Program Summary

- **Our cost share program in 2006 will again have two options:**
 - Large organized private blocks with multiple landowners and isolated large single landowner projects will be eligible for a 2/3 ISDA - 1/3 landowner aerial cost share treatment program. Smaller projects will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for aerial spray or ground applied bait options.
 - Farmers and ranchers with infestations will still have the option of receiving carbaryl bait. But the landowner will be responsible for labor costs and proper application of the bait.
- Landowners participating in cost sharing applications, or who receive bait, will be required to comply with all label restrictions and requirements as well as comply with the Idaho Pesticide and Chemigation Law. This responsibility also includes strictly following the insecticide label; including proper calibration of application equipment, following all environmental precautions, and properly disposing of the empty bait bags.
- ISDA has the responsibility and the authority to investigate any alleged pesticide misuse, particularly in regards to carbaryl bait applications, and take enforcement action when appropriate. ISDA Ag Resources staff may be called in to oversee applications of ISDA cost share projects.
- Adequate oversight of the pest suppression program is an expectation of our ISDA administration and the state legislature. Failure of participants and cooperators to submit the proper forms such as: request for evaluation, cost share application, no spray request, bait distribution record; as required by ISDA may result in loss of eligibility to participate in the program.

2006 Contact Information & Complaint Forms

**Infestations on all Federal Lands in
Idaho**

If your infestation is on BLM, USFS or
other Federal Lands

Use these number
USDA APHIS PPQ Office
Twin Falls, ID

Voice: 208-733-5119
Fax: 208-734-7863

Infestations on State or Private Lands

If your infestation is in one of these
regions or counties:

SE Idaho

Bannock Bear Lake, Bingham, Blaine
Bonneville, Camas, Caribou, Cassia,
Franklin, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka,
Oneida, Twin Falls

Use these numbers
Voice: 208-733-5119
Fax: 208-734-7863

SW Idaho

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore,
Gem, Gooding, Owyhee, Payette or
Washington

Use these numbers
Voice: 208-332-8620
Fax: 208-334-2283

North Idaho

Latah, Nez Perce, Clearwater (north of
the North Fork of the Clearwater River)

Use these numbers
Voice: 208- 799-3096
Fax: 208-799-3054
Lewiston ID

Lewis, Idaho, Clearwater (south of the
North Fork of the Clearwater River)

Use these numbers
Voice: 208-937-2311
Fax: 208-937-9238
Nezperce ID

Idaho County Commissioners

March 31, 2006

Page 4

We will continue to work cooperatively with counties, extension educators and our federal partners, USDA APHIS.

The Lewis and Nez Perce County Extension offices have agreed to be contact points for private land owners in the north central area. In addition we will have a field scout assigned to north central Idaho to help in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce Counties in 2006.

We will be glad to send our staff to special grower rancher informational meetings in the impacted counties if requested to report on the program procedures and cost share options.

Attached is our statewide grasshopper/Mormon cricket complaint form. This single form will be use for all initial complaints for infestations are on federal, state or private lands. Submission instructions are on the form.

Our goal is to serve impacted landowners and encourage judicious use of grasshopper insecticides, while protecting pollinators, non target species and sensitive environments.

You can obtain more information at the ISDA website www.idahoag.us and go to the Grasshopper/Mormon cricket links for further details.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the 2005 program, please don't hesitate to contact Dick Lawson at 208- 332-8536 or Garry West in our Twin Falls office 208-736-2195

cc: Dave McNeal, USDA APHIS PPQ
Garry West, ISDA Twin Falls
Rob McChesney, USDA APHIS PPQ
Lou Dersch, USDA APHIS PPQ
Debbie Morton, USDA APHIS PPQ